

regularly engaged in Church work in connection with the Parish.

S. Andrew's Branch (Port Ahuriri).—This Branch numbers 17 members, who take their part in the life of the Church. It is to be regretted, however, that the only member of the Council belonging to this Branch has never found it convenient to be present at one of its meetings throughout the year.

S. Matthew's Branch (Hastings).—This is a particularly active Branch, and consists of 42 members. It meets every fortnight, when discussions are held on stated subjects.

All Saints' Branch (Taradale) numbers 14, all engaged in Church work.

Rotorua Branch.—This Branch numbers 26, and is still active in Church work, especially in the Prison camps. Devotional meetings are held, and in every way the spiritual life of its members is being built up gradually.

Dannevirke (13), Wairoa (20), Waipawa (11), Havelock (9), and Gisborne (36).—These Branches cannot be said to be in active operation, though Wairoa is showing some signs of returning life. However, the sustained enthusiasm of a few is more effective than the spasmodic outbursts of a score or so of its members with no solid work between whiles.

Military Camps.—The Society has been represented at the Military Camps during the year. The Venerable Archdeacon Ruddock controlled one, and Canon Mayne a second. Archdeacon Tisdale was in charge at Rotorua. The Defence Department gives every possible consideration, and affords great facilities for the holding of these camps. The Department expressed appreciation of the Society's services in connection with the camps.

S. Oswald's Guild.—Branches of this Guild have been established at S. Augustine's, Napier, at S. Matthew's, Hastings, and also at Gisborne. These Branches are active, and the work sustained.

General Work.—The Council desires to impress on all Branches the necessity there is for holding more devotional meetings, and also classes for Bible study and Church History. If this means of adding to the life of the Society were more generally availed of a rich harvest of blessing would assuredly follow.

General Conference.—The Diocese of Waiapu was represented at the C.E.M.S. Conference recently held at Auckland by delegates from all but two Branches. The occasion was inspiring, the debates being spirited and earnest, whilst the mass meeting in the Town Hall was earnest and enthusiastic, and numerously attended.

Meetings of Council.—During the year the Council held 8 meetings. The number of attendances made by each member is as follows:—Ven. Archdeacon Ruddock 7, Canon Tuke 8, Rev. J. B. Brocklehurst 3, S. E. McCarthy 7, J. P. Williamson 3, T. D. Smith 4, W. J. Pallot 7, Dr. Tossell 3, Captain Lake 0, W. H. Brabant 6.

Visit of Rev. Watts-Ditchfield.—This Missioner will visit New Zealand in the month of September. It is to be regretted more time could not have been allotted to this Dominion. Many important branches will not be visited, only some of the members of which will be able to attend the services. The rota at present laid down for this Diocese is—Hastings, 22nd September, Sunday morning; Napier, same day at 3 p.m., at S. Augustine's; 7 p.m., at S. John's Cathedral. A men's meeting after service. Rotorua will be visited on Tuesday, 24th.

Conclusion.—Whilst the Council is unable to record any very great strides in aggressive work, yet much quiet work has been effectively done, and the effect of our organisation in consolidating the Church workers must not be lost sight of. If men federate in order to gain material ends, why should not Church workers do likewise for spiritual ends? If a simple faith in the Almighty, as well as a healthy distrust of our own unaided efforts, be joined with a fervent humility, intensely human, and yet having in it some element of the Divine, there can be but one end to our united efforts, namely, a rich harvest of souls for God, and untold blessings for ourselves.

S. E. MCCARTHY,
Chairman.

An important resolution was moved by the Hastings Delegates, providing for direct representation of each Branch upon the Council. This was carried. The resolution is as follows:—

"That the Constitution of the Diocesan Council be amended to

provide for direct representation of each Branch. The Council to consist of, besides the three Clergy, one Lay representative for each Branch in the Diocese. The three Clergy to be nominated by the Branches, and elected by the Delegates at the annual Conference. The Diocesan Secretary shall be elected by the Diocesan Council, and shall not of necessity be a member of the Council. Each Branch shall elect its own Lay members to the Council, and in cases of distant Branches it shall be permissible for them to nominate and elect a representative from a Branch nearer head quarters, such member to have full Delegate's powers, and be responsible to the Branch by which he was elected."

It was agreed that the financial year of the Society in the Diocese should close on the 31st March in each year, and the annual Conference be held in the month of May.

The levy of 1912-13 was fixed at 6d. per member.

A resolution was passed urging members of the C.E.M.S. to use every endeavour to secure a better observance of Good Friday.

It was decided to recommend to the Executive that the Dominion Conference be held in the latter part of January, in preference to Easter.

The following were elected members of the Diocesan Council:—

Clergy: Ven. Archdeacon Ruddock, Rev. Canon C. L. Tuke, Rev. J. B. Brocklehurst.

Laity: T. Gill (Hastings), E. McCutcheon (Taradale), S. E. McCarthy (Napier), Dr. Tossell (Hastings), S. A. Vyner (Hastings), J. P. Williamson (Napier), W. J. Pallot (Napier).

The election of Secretary was left to the Diocesan Council, owing to the fact that those nominated were unable to accept the position.

The meeting expressed hearty appreciation of the services rendered to the Society by the retiring Secretary (Mr. Thomas).

Votes of thanks were passed to the Bishop for presiding, to the Diocesan Council and Secretary for past services, to the Vicar and Vestry of S. John for the use of the schoolroom, and to the Scrutineers.

The Delegates, on behalf of their different Branches, expressed a hearty welcome to the Bishop on his return to the Diocese.

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer.